

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 01781 022200Z

60

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 /055 W

----- 007612

R 022058Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9938

INFO DIA WASHDC

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 1781

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, HO

SUBJECT: REACTION TO CHIEF OF STATE MELGAR'S APRIL 30 SPEECH

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 1761

1. PRESS COMMENTARY ON CHIEF OF STATE MELGAR'S ADDRESS TO THE NATION ON APRIL 30 HAS BEEN GENERALLY FAVORABLE. CONSERVATIVE LA PRENSA OF MAY 1 PRINTED THE TEXT OF THE SPEECH AND SELECTED MELGAR'S STATEMENT FAVORING AN EVENTUAL RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT FOR ITS HEADLINE READING, "MELGAR FAVORS CONSTITUTIONALITY." THE PAPER'S AFTERNOON STABLE MATE, LA NOTICIA, CARRIED A PAGE ONE EDITORIAL STRONGLY SUPPORTING MELGAR AS A "DEMOCRAT," AND SAID THAT LOPEZ' OUSTER WAS DESIRABLE BECAUSE "UNDER TRANSFORMED INTO ONE MORE SLAVE COLONY OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM."

2. LIBERAL TIEMPO OF MAY 2 EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE CONCILLIATORY TONE OF MELGAR'S ADDRESS WAS RIGHT FOR TROUBLED TIMES. REGARDING THE LIST OF CHALLENGES
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APPEARING IN MELGAR'S SPEECH, TIEMPO EXPRESSED A WAIT-

AND-SEE ATTITUDE ABOUT WHETHER THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT
WOULD PERFORM BETTER THAN THE PREVIOUS ONE.

3. THERE IS CURRENTLY VERY LITTLE COMMENTARY ABOUT THE
UB/LOPEZ SCANDAL. THIS WILL LIKELY ONCE AGAIN BECOME
FRONT PAGE COVERAGE WHEN THE INVESTIGATING COMMISSION
RETURNS TO HONDURAS WHICH, ACCORDING TO RADIO REPORTS,
IS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 4.
SANCHEZ

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